

Date : 5/9/2019 11:51:42 PM

From : "Larry Balsamo"

To : "Jackie Thompson"

Subject : Re: Trouble

I did read your posting from Norine and Demmer, or, rather, zip heard it. Pritzker should generally leave the appointed boards alone, unless there was some kind of prior agreement between the governor and the appointee about agreed upon policies and issues. And Pritzker is not the first one to meddle with his own appointed board, or to permit some other entity to interfere. Case in point, Rauner pulled the re nomination or extension of Steve Nelson last spring, reportedly at the request of the Black Caucus. I do not know if Norine opposed this action or supported it. I do not support this kind of heavy handed interference with duly appointed governing boards by any caucus of any kind in the legislature unless there is accusation, arrest, and or indictment of unlawful act. I have heard from pretty good sources that there is pressure from, if not the governor, then someone representing him to protect Jack from termination at least soon. I do not know what to make of this, but if we get a decent Provost and soon, maybe we can live with Jack for another twelve or eighteen months. Race hangs over this whole situation, but I have the feeling that if Jack were white or even Asian he would have been gone some time ago. There will be no stopping the current in town petition and I hear that there goal is five thousand signatures. Currently, and you know this, he and whatever leadership team he has now have almost no credibility. By the way, I have written to Eric and Keisha and have had polite responses. Have had considerable dialogue with Nick and he is a very sharp cookie. No response of any kind from Greg and I will write to Shaw tomorrow. Sorry for the long message. Remember, drink, dance, and swear.

Sent from my iPad

> On May 8, 2019, at 5:08 PM, Jackie Thompson <jk.thompson@wiu.edu> wrote:

>

> Larry Thanks for your comments, insights and support. I value yours and Charlene's friendship especially right now and am deeply appreciative. I hope I can help restore WIU to the days we remember so well during our tenure at WIU.

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

>> On May 7, 2019, at 3:24 PM, Larry Balsamo <lbalsamo@wiu.edu> wrote:

>>

>> I am picking up some disturbing about the Jack situation and so is at least one other member of the group. My fear is that the Jack predicament cannot easily be separated from race. By guess is that right now three members of the board, the two African Americans and Aguilar will be at least skeptical about any immediate move on Jack and they may be supported by some in the governor's office and certainly some in the legislature. I agree that he needs to go very soon and there are numbers of people in town and on campus who now agree. The petitions are still circulating in town, one reportedly pushed by Brodie Westen, and I am guessing based on unhappiness over the choice of athletic director. My guess as of now is that sometime before your late June meeting the board may want to consider giving Jack a one year terminal contract, but only if we have a new Provost. If not, I fear that there will be chaos if a move is made against him and terrible publicity. I know certainly that some of the opposition to Jack is racist, but even if he were purple he has been a near total failure here. I am willing to put the ending of Jack on a sort of back burner if you think that is prudent and useful. I warn you, though, in my judgement that if he somehow messes up the Provost search or fails to soon come up with the blueprint followed by he and his people for layoffs and program cuts soon, there will be a situation here at least on campus that will be hard to ignore or control. Do not think the state is paying you enough.

>>

>>

>> Sent from my iPad